IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, and starting with "To implement NAT, a translation system must . . ." as follows:

To implement NAT, a translation system must be provided between the enterprise private network and the Internet. Unfortunately, as the translation system is positioned between the enterprise and the Internet, communication performance can be degraded if NAT is not performed efficiently. FIGURE 1 illustrates a typical prior art Internet/Enterprise computer network configuration 10, where a server load balancer is used to distribute requests to different servers in the ~~intranet~~ intranet 18. In this case, client NAT is necessary to force all responses to be returned to the server load balancer. In this example, client 12 issues a request from the Enterprise organization. The client's request designates a source IP address "C" (S=C) and a virtual server IP address "V" (D=V). The client's request is transmitted to the Internet 14 and arrives at the Enterprise's server load balancer 16. The server load balancer 16 translates both the source and destination IP address to "N1" and "R1," respectively. "R1" is the IP address of one of the real servers 20, 22, or 24 chosen by the server load balancer. "N1" is a generated IP address that is advertised within the ~~intranet~~ intranet 18 so that routing tables (of network devices within the ~~intranet~~ intranet 18) are updated to cause all responses sent to "N1" to be routed to the server load balancer. This is necessary because the server load balancer must maintain connection state information and perform a reverse translation. The translation of the C to "N1" is called client NAT. The server load balancer 16 then routes the request to "R1" (say 20). Server 20 generates a response to the request causing it to be routed to the server load balancer 16. Before the response

can be routed to the client, the server load balancer must reverse the translation. "N1" is translated to "C" and "R1" is translated to "V." The source address of the response message is set to "V" (S=V) and the destination address is set to "C" (D=C). If client NAT were not employed, the response could be routed to router 26, resulting in network errors.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 27, and starting with "FIGURE 6 illustrates . . ." as follows:

FIGURE 6 illustrates the memory deallocation ~~method~~ method 600 of another embodiment of the present invention. When the server load balancer has finished with the connection, it calls the memory manager's deallocation connection procedure to free the block in step 604. Next, in step 606, the chain block in question is put on the free list. However, because the client NAT address is retained in the block, the memory is not actually freed at this time. Execution of the method proceeds to step 608 where a background process checks to determine if the memory pool needs to be reduced. A reduction is warranted if all the blocks in the subpool are free and the pool is shrunk in step 608.